



CRISIS EN VENEZUELA

Bulletin No. 182

From May 10 to 17, 2021

www.crisisenvenezuela.com

Espacio Público - www.espaciopublico.org

State of Carabobo Secretary of Government censured the press during teachers' protest



The State of Carabobo Secretary of Government, Jesús París, prevented the press from taking statements during a teachers' protest at the Government seat on May 11th. The event occurred when the news media from *El Carabobeño*, TV Venezuela, and Vivo Play interviewed Luis Guillermo Padrón, spokesperson of the State of Carabobo Teachers Union, on the occasion of delivering a letter to the regional authorities in which they demanded respect to their labor rights.



front of him to hear what he was saying, and since París didn't agree with his statements, he started to speak loudly and the spokesperson basically lost his concentration».

The journalist Gabriela Suniaga said that while she was interviewing Padrón, the government official «stood in

«He told me and another person who was helping me that we were “opening ourselves to that”, all because he didn't agree with Luis Guillermo Padrón's statement».

Read more in spanish here 

CEPAZ - www.cepaz.org

Cepaz documented 126 persecution and criminalization acts during April



Here at the Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz), we documented 126 persecution and criminalization acts during April. There were at least 12 attacks against press workers. In total, there were five arbitrary detentions, one case of impeding access for news registration, five cases concerning acts of intimidation, threats and stigmatization, and an open judicial process. We also accounted seven attacks against civil society, among which we recorded one arbitrary detention, blocking an organization's website, the publication of the Administrative Ruling 001-2021 that under multiple rights violations limits the work of the non-governmental organizations, and, lastly, four criminalization and harassment acts.



linked to the legislative management of the opposition between 2016 and 2021 were summoned and accused of causing damages against the Republic. This summons responds to a clear persecution pattern exercised since the past against political dissidence that seeks to silence them. Additionally, we recorded two arbitrary detentions, one threat and one extradition application against Leopoldo López.

We recorded at least three attacks against the population. One against a citizen that was ultimately detained after a publication in his social media, an intimidation act on behalf of the Mayor of Yaracuy, Luis Adrián Duque, who, violating the rights to intimacy, marked the homes of people infected with COVID-19, and a discrimination act against the population, subordinating the vaccine against the coronavirus in the *Patria* System. Lastly, we recorded 104 attacks in April against people linked to the political opposition. In total, 100 people

The constant threat of being a possible victim of some of the persecution and criminalization patterns that includes the loss of social benefits and rights, and even the impossibility of having access to a vaccine, prevents the population from exercising its fundamental freedoms, such as expression, association, gathering, demonstration, opinion, and participation, which definitively seeks to silence political dissidence and also to maintain the population under extreme control.

Read more in spanish here 

Transparencia Venezuela - www.transparencia.org.ve

The Supreme Court of Justice insists on allowing the Bolivarian National Armed Forces to use weapons for controlling demonstrations

The Supreme Court of Justice [TSJ by its Spanish initials] ratified again the regulation that allows members of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces [FANB by its Spanish initials] to use firearms for dispersing protests that have turned violent, which contradicts Article 68 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that forbids the use of firearms and toxic substances for controlling public demonstrations.



demonstrations.

In the sentence drafted by the President of this authority, Magistrate María Carolina Ameliach, it rejected, without revising, the legal action filed by Pereira Gorrín, based on a technicality: the attorney didn't comply with the obligation of retrieving the

The decision was made by the Political Administrative Chamber of the TSJ in its Ruling number 0074 dated April 29th, 2021, in which it dismissed the appeal for annulment that was filed by the attorney Henry Pereira Gorrín on February 18th, 2015 against Resolution 008610, containing the Rules on Actions by the Bolivarian National Armed Forces in functions of public order, social peace and civic coexistence control in public gatherings and

notice of citation, nor did he publish it in a journal of national circulation in order to allow third parties with a possible interest in the matter to participate in same. The maximum court didn't explain the motives for which the case remained completely inactive for almost four years.

[Read more in spanish here](#) 

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza - www.sinmordaza.org

Documenting crimes against humanity in Venezuela

The organizations Un Mundo Sin Mordaza, Defiende Venezuela and the Crimes Against Humanity Observatory work towards building a Crimes Against Humanity Documentation International Network in five countries of the continent for documenting cases of Venezuelan victims who have been forced to flee from the country fearing that risks to their liberty, life, and physical and psychological integrity to continue.



Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR), and the Organization of American States Group of Experts have determined that there is sufficient evidence to affirm that authorities from Nicolás Maduro's regime have committed serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity.

According to international investigations, the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela (FFM), as well as reports from the Office of the United Nations High

These are complex times for Venezuela and the world; this is why Un Mundo Sin Mordaza considers that today, more than ever, the joint and online work becomes necessary to broaden the scope, to increase the security levels of our organizations and to maximize the impact that it could have before key and influential actors for returning Venezuela to democracy, applying justice and guaranteeing not to repeat this.



Acceso a la Justicia - www.accesoalajusticia.org

The Prosecutor General retracts in well-known human rights violations cases in order to avoid the ICC

The Venezuelan Prosecutor General's Office hasn't had any shame in making a 180° turn in well-known human rights violations cases in what seems to be a maneuver to show that the alleged guilty parties in these violations are being processed and thus avoiding that the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Court (ICC) opens a formal investigation for crimes against humanity against Venezuelan high-ranking officials.



Saab himself affirmed on May 1st that: «We have to keep in mind that the ICC has a complementary character of national criminal jurisdictions of the countries signatories of the Rome Statute. In other words, this authority intervenes when the possible cases that may be of its competence haven't been investigated by the justice system of the Member State».

The aforesaid isn't an isolated event, but it rather falls in a global strategy of this government of presenting an image of collaboration with the ICC. Among the elements supporting this affirmation are the following facts: the appointment of Gladys Gutiérrez as the new Ambassador before the ICC; the publication of the decree restructuring the Bolivarian National Police [*PNB by its Spanish initials*], an entity that includes the Special Actions Forces [*FAES by its Spanish acronym*] within its structure, who have been seriously questioned by several international human rights organizations; and the reading of an official communication by the Venezuelan Prosecutor General, Tarek William Saab, in a press conference on May 1st, in which he indicated that he'd sent a third group of documentation to the Prosecutor's Office of the ICC on the previous day informing of the status of the cases on which this organization had formulated some requests.

According to the Venezuelan Prosecutor General, the mere fact of investigating a case would impede action from the ICC, but this isn't so, since the Rome Statute sets forth in its Article 17, 2nd numbered paragraph, that it must be established if such investigations aren't performed under the following cases: that the judicial decision, if the case may be, hasn't been made in order to withdraw the responsible party from the justice action; that the investigation is unjustifiably delayed; or that the process hasn't been substantiated in an independent and unbiased manner. It's evident that all of the aforementioned cases apply to the Venezuelan case, where the responsible parties or the chain of command aren't investigated, where trials last an eternity and the crimes are incorrectly qualified so to favor those who are responsible.

As we previously indicated, these announcements by the Venezuelan Prosecutor General's Office aren't for free.

Read more in spanish here 



Foro Penal - www.foropenal.com

Musical discussion groups on human rights reach remote areas in Venezuela

As of May 14th, 2021 Foro Penal recorded 15,726 arbitrary arrests in Venezuela since January 1st, 2014. 872 civilians have been presented before military courts. Up to this date we have accrued a historical number of 3,605 political prisoners, of which 3,296 have been released under different modalities.



people, out of which 22 are women. Additionally, 9,378 people were or are being unjustly subjected to criminal procedures under cautionary measures.

As of April 2014 we recorded 117 political prisoners in the country. As of May 14th, 2021 the number is 309

Here at Foro Penal, we've begun a tour throughout the country with our musical discussion groups on human rights, focusing on the poorest and most remote towns of the states. We're starting in the States of Portuguesa, Cojedes and Carabobo. We'll continue our campaign for disseminating human rights in the country, because it's necessary that the entire population knows how to act in cases of their violations.

Defiende Venezuela - www.defiendevenezuela.org

DEFIENDE VENEZUELA

Extrajudicial executions in Venezuela: a bitter reality

The Legal Coordinator of Defiende Venezuela, Simón Gómez, presented an article that he coauthored in which he analyzed the situation of the executions performed by State officials, and, furthermore, he makes a distinction between extrajudicial executions, summary executions, and arbitrary executions. Pointing out that beyond the concept or definition referred, what's important is that these types of acts committed by state agents violate human rights.

They particularly violate the right to life, to personal integrity, to not to be tortured, to freedom and personal security, to the truth, to effective judicial safeguard, to restitution, and to not be subjected to forced disappearance of people.

Besides, as of the first report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on



Venezuela (FFM), it analyzes the three contexts in which this practice has been executed in the country. Firstly, as a selective political repression mechanism against political oppositionists (the Fernando Albán and Rafael Acosta Arévalo cases).

Secondly, for security control or social control [the Liberation of the People Operation (*OLP by its Spanish initials*), the Humanist Liberation of the People Operation (*OLHP by its Spanish initials*), the Special Actions Forces (*FAES by its Spanish acronym*), and the Criminal and Scientific Investigation Bureau (*CICPC by its Spanish initials*)]. And lastly, repression of protests in which, according to official sources, at least 167 murders have occurred.

Read more in spanish here 

PROVEA - www.derechos.org

PROVEA

International contention in human rights

During these past days, different spokespersons of the National Executive Power have started a campaign of attacks against the International Criminal Court (ICC). First, it was the *de facto* Prosecutor General, Tarek William Saab, who, on May 6th, affirmed that the Preliminary Exam currently performed by the ICC used tweets generated by bots with false asseverations as information sources. This statement clashes with the one made in December 2020 when, after a visit to the organization's headquarters in The Hague, Saab affirmed that "Venezuela has always manifested its acknowledgement and support to the International Criminal Court". The second official to disqualify the work of the ICC was the Executive Vice-President, Delcy Rodríguez, who declared that the Venezuela case was a "great sham" based on falsenesses and lies published in social media.



The Venezuelan regime attempts to position a matrix of opinion just a few weeks from, as the Prosecutor's Office of the ICC announced, making a decision on whether or not a formal investigation will be opened on the crimes against humanity that occurred in the country. Is it early damage prevention in case of an adverse decision?

Attempting to influence the ICC's opinion on Venezuela, on the other hand, motivated that, after several years of supporting a contrary thesis, Juan Pablo Pernaleté would be acknowledged as being murdered by a tear gas canister (2017) and that the State is responsible of the death of the Councilperson Fernando Albán (2018). Before the lack of a genuine will of investigating, sanctioning and stopping human rights violations, Venezuelans basically only have pressure as a sole contention mechanism as a result of the actions of these international supervision organizations.

Acción Solidaria - www.accionsolidaria.info

Vaccination in Venezuela: promises, promises

According to an analysis of Transparencia Venezuela and from the little public information available, Venezuela has received 880,000 vaccine doses. 380,000 of the Russian Sputnik V and 500,000 from the Chinese company Sinopharm, a number that would only vaccinate 1.4% of the population. Likewise, President Nicolás Maduro announced that the agreement with Russia would allow the arrival of 10 million doses, if this were to be true, then another 9,260,000 additional doses would be needed.



received by COVAX are from Johnson & Johnson, Venezuela would have 21,500,000 doses, with which 16,250,000 people could be vaccinated, which equals to 58% of the population; thus, if the objective is to be fulfilled, the country needs more vaccine doses.

In any way, a structured, serious, and transparent plan is necessary in the Venezuelan context in order to comply and develop a successful massive vaccination that obeys technical-scientific criteria, since it's the only way to achieve the goal of attaining the flock's immunity, Venezuela needs it.

Using all these figures and assuming that the vaccines

Bloque Constitucional - www.bloqueconstitucional.com

Venezuelan nursing staff protests against violations to their human rights

International Nurses Day is celebrated on May 12th, but what should've been celebrated with rejoice or, at least, respect, was seized by our country's nursing staff to protest and declare that if the very serious problem of miserable salaries they have and the delivery of vaccination and bio-security equipment for them isn't resolved, they would go on strike. This was informed by Ana Rosario Contreras, President of their guild.



concerns (along with the medical staff) the most exposed workers in this sanitary crisis, as well as obtaining the vaccination to which they've been ostracized.

The demands they've made for the violation of their right to work in adequate conditions and to be vaccinated is accompanied by the need for this regime to provide a dignified salary, which most Venezuelans lack; nevertheless, in this case, it turns out that the aforesaid violations are combined with the non-guarantee of a salary that allows them to lead a dignified life. With this, the regime keeps relegating the attention to this group that integrates the front line in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, the Venezuelan nursing staff's right to special protection of their health facing the pandemic we're suffering is violated day after day, precisely because it

